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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2014, at 2 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2014

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House. There are many important issues to be considered, with multiple interests and priorities dividing the House in its deliberations.

May the inertia of habit that has solidified various blocs of opinion be stirred to productive action, and grant that a new light might shine on creative solutions to longstanding and vexing disagreement.

The benefit of so many Americans depends on the creativity and intentions of those who serve here. May their hopes and prayers for constructive legislation be satisfied to Your divine grace and the goodwill of all in this Chamber.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BARROW) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BARROW of Georgia led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 requests for 1-minute speeches.

RECOGNIZING BELL STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL

(Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bell Street Middle School in Clinton, South Carolina, for the outstanding accomplishment of winning their 12th consecutive Science Olympiad State Championship.

You hear a lot about sports teams, but this is a science olympiad team. Each year, the South Carolina Science Olympiad competition brings together schools from all over the State to compete in science-related contests, with the goal of changing the way science is perceived and taught.

Bell Street Middle School has repeatedly excelled in the competition, lead-

ing the State for over a decade. This year, Bell Street finished first in 12 of the 20 individual competitions in the State tournament.

Last year, the school placed in the top six in the Dynamic Planet competition in the Science Olympiad national tournament.

We are very proud of these students and what they accomplished. I am confident they will go on to represent South Carolina well in the national competition.

I want to thank the students, teachers, the parents, and the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make the dream a reality.

I wish the team great success in the upcoming national competition and continued success in the State tournament for years to come.

RAISE THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the urgent need to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour.

Since 2009, we have had the same \$7.25 per hour minimum wage. Over the last 5 years, inflation rates caused the value of that to decrease by an average of 13.6 cents per year.

Today, \$7.25 is worth 9 percent less than it was in 2009. For someone working full time on minimum wage, this is like getting a \$26 decrease in pay. Meanwhile, the cost of everyday necessities continues to increase. Between

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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basic needs like gas, milk, heat, and electricity, Americans are paying \$23.19 more per month.

Many times, I have urged my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to do the right thing and allow a vote to ensure American families can have the comfort of a livable wage.

For those who are not working and struggling to keep afloat in these tough times, let's vote to extend the unemployment benefits that expired.

I urge my colleagues to stop brushing working Americans under the rug and pass a fair minimum wage.

SAVE AMERICAN JOBS ACT

(Mr. SMITH of Missouri asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the problems with ObamaCare never seem to stop hurting families and individuals in Missouri's Eighth District. They are experiencing huge increases in their monthly premiums, and bureaucrats are continuing to get between doctors and patients.

Additionally, workers are seeing reduced hours because of the 30-hour rule contained in ObamaCare. The Save American Workers Act will repeal ObamaCare's 30-hour rule.

Because of this legislation, small businesses will no longer be forced to choose between providing health insurance to part-time workers or drastically cutting jobs or even eliminating employees.

A recent study estimated a 30-hour workweek rule could cost as many as 2.6 million Americans jobs.

Make no mistake, I am still fighting to fully repeal ObamaCare, but the Save American Workers Act will not fix every problem with the ObamaCare health care mandate, but it will immediately save millions of American jobs, and it will help families who are struggling to make ends meet.

BARROW'S BOOKWORMS CHALLENGE

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the elementary school students in my district in Georgia who are part of the inaugural class of Barrow's Bookworms.

Last fall, I challenged students in my district to read 20 books over the course of the semester. Upon completion, they would be recognized for their good work with a ceremony in the district.

For this first-ever Barrow's Bookworms program, more than 1,300 students in Georgia's 12th District accepted the challenge and completed the program, collectively reading more than 27,000 books.

As part of this program, students were also asked to create a bookmark

that would be distributed to all of the participants. Bekah McCord, an outstanding third grade student at Southwest Laurens Elementary School in Dublin, successfully completed the Barrow's Bookworms reading program and was selected as the winner of our first bookmark design contest. Bekah is an exceptional student and a great example to peers.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Bekah and all of the students who participated this year, and I look forward to next year's Barrow's Bookworms challenge.

CONDOLENCES FOR THE TRAGEDY AT FORT HOOD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my thoughts and prayers to the individuals, families, and loved ones of those affected by the tragedy at Fort Hood. To have this happen a second time adds more heartbreak to a community still grieving from the tragic events of 2009.

There are still a lot of questions to be answered. Assuredly, like many cases where suicide is involved, we may never know the motive. Undoubtedly, the gunman's mental wellbeing, along with many other variables, continue under investigation.

Not until we know more from the leadership in charge of the investigation would it be appropriate to speculate facts or other variables.

Yes, given a preliminary description of events, it is hard not to place a tragedy in perspective—in the context of the grave challenge our Nation faces when it comes to better addressing issues of behavioral health, mental illness, and suicide.

For now, we pray. For now, we praise. For now, we honor each individual and each sacred life lost.

A TRIBUTE TO MARLAN BOURNS

(Mr. TAKANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marlan Bourns, a local Riverside County inventor and philanthropist who recently passed away at the age of 93.

Marlan and his wife Rosemary founded what was then known as Bourns Laboratories out of their garage in Michigan, but its quick growth propelled their relocation to my hometown of Riverside, California.

There, Mr. Bourns' business grew to become a significant contributor in the fields of engineering and technology. His inventions would be used by NASA, the medical device industry, telecommunication companies, and personal computer manufacturers.

His fair pay for employees and respectful treatment of them are several

of the reasons why some stayed with the company for 50 years. He was able to pour much of his success back into the community through his generous endowment for the University of California at Riverside, which is now home to the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering.

His friends and family will always remember a creative and inventive man who carried with him an incredibly gentle nature and giving spirit. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CASTLE RED HURRICANES

(Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to offer congratulations to the New Castle Red Hurricanes for winning their first-ever Pennsylvania AAAA State championship, with an undefeated 31-0 record.

The 'Canes pulled this off with a 52-39 victory over Philadelphia's La Salle College High School 2 weeks ago in Hershey, Pennsylvania, making them only the fourth undefeated Pennsylvania class AAAA boys' basketball champions in State history.

I send a special congratulations to the players' families, as well as head coach Ralph Blundo and New Castle superintendent John Sarandrea.

According to the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, the day after the 'Canes won, Coach Blundo told a group of kindergartners that the 'Canes aren't special because they won the State championship.

He says they are special because of their good grades and the fact that every one of his seniors are going to college next year. He says his players just do things the right way. I couldn't agree more. Go 'Canes.

HONORING THE ANNIVERSARY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ASSASSINATION

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 46th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King being gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee.

Dr. King is well-known for his speech, "I Have a Dream," about civil rights and social justice. When he died, he was fighting for economic justice. He was fighting for the right to organize and for better wages for human beings and to attack poverty.

Unfortunately, in this House, too often we hear about opposition to jobs bills, opposition to the minimum wage, opposition to health care for individuals who cannot afford it.

We even see the voting rights bill being struck down by the Supreme Court and the difficulty of getting a new one in this House, and we see people in the other Chamber who even